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The Sun

Thursday, December 9

Palm Beach County's HomeTown Newspaper

Sun Spots

Holiday Mixer

The community is invited to attend a Holiday Mixer hosted by First Community Bank of Palm Beach County in Pahokee, and co-sponsored by the Pahokee Chamber of Commerce, Pahokee Main Street and Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce.

The Holiday Mixer will be Thursday, Dec. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at First Community Bank in Pahokee.

Special guests will be the Main Street Carolers.

Please RSVP by Dec. 7 to the Belle Glade Chamber at 996-2745 or the Pahokee Chamber at 924-5579.

Sheriff's Office hosting Boxing Championship

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, District 5 in Belle Glade, in cooperation with various Police Athletic Leagues, is hosting the 2000 Florida State Silver Gloves Boxing Championship. The event will be held at the First Baptist Church Recreation Building, 17 N.W. Avenue B, Belle Glade on December 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Youth boxers from all over the state are travelling to Belle Glade to compete for this boxing championship title.

For more information, contact Deputy Michael LeStrange at 996-1670.

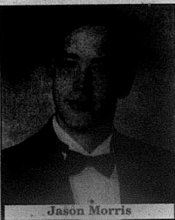
SHIP Spirit 2000 Calendars to be given at meeting

The SHIP Spirit 2000 Council will meet on Thursday, Dec. 9 from 6 to 7 p.m. for the distribution of the SHIP Spirit 2000 Commemorative Calendar.

The event is in support of the World AIDS Day message to listen, learn and live and SHIP's commitment to bold leadership in breaking the silence on HIV. The distribution will be held at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, 249 SW 10th Street, Belle Glade. Pastors, spouses and representatives to attended the SHIP Spirit 2000 Conference on Sept. 18 and volunteers who have completed the 104 Class are invited to attend.

See SUNSPOTS/Pg. 5

Popular GDS senior dies in car rollover on way to game



Jason Morris

By Brenda Bunting Editor

"Honk if you love Jason" is spelled out in styrofoam cups in front of Glades Day School this week. The cups were pushed through the fence by grieving classmates of Jason Morris, a popular senior at the school, who died in a car accident Friday, Dec. 3, while on his way to the football game in Ft. Meade.

Jason, 17, was driving north of South Bay on U.S. 27 about 4:25 p.m. when the accident occurred. Fellow classmate Ryan Shackelford was also in the car. Jason was attempting to pass a charter bus carrying the school's band when his 1998 Ford flipped five times. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Jason was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the car. Ryan, who was also not wearing a seat belt, was not ejected and sustained only minor injuries.

School Headmaster Mandy Perez said he was only minutes behind Jason's car when the accident occurred last Friday. He stopped to give assistance. Other parents driving to the game in Ft. Meade also stopped when they saw the accident.

The football team and cheerleaders were not told of Jason's death until after the football game. When told, the Ft. Meade players went back over to the Glades Day team to console them.

"Rather than proceeding with their own celebration after a pretty hard-fought game, and they deserved to celebrate, they joined us in our grieving at a moment when we were pretty low," said Mr. Perez.

On Monday, he drafted a letter of praise for the Ft. Meade team to the Florida

High School Athletic Association nominating Ft. Meade for the sportsmanship they showed.

Mr. Perez was able to smile as he reminisced about Jason as a "mischievous guy," who was sent to his office many times for mostly minor things, gum chewing, shirttails out.

"I'd think I was going to really unload on him, but he had that smile that went cheek to cheek and his blue eyes would sparkle at you. He got away with more than most, because he had such a pleasant personality and he would always win you over. You could not stay mad at Jason," said Mr. Perez.

"He was a very social student, and I think that's why he had so many friends," Mr. Perez added.

Monday morning, students were being consoled by Coach Woody Salvatore, teachers Joyce Chamblee, Mary Edwards and Rev. Rob Ruby. "The teachers are grieving along with them and talking with them. It's really hard on them."

"We're trying to do the best we can through this, but it's going to very, very tough later in the year on two occasions," said Mr. Perez, "when the yearbook comes out and at the end, at graduation."

"That's what makes this year so tough. We've had great success athletically and academically and then we've had personal tragedies and we've had hurricanes. It's like a roller coaster around here. You don't want to tempt the Lord, but you don't know how much more you can take."

The high school was closed Wednesday, Dec. 8 for Jason's funeral which was held at the First Baptist Church in Belle Glade.

Jason is survived by his parents, David and Rebecca Morris of Belle Glade, one brother, Jonathan, and two sisters, Anita Wells of Orlando and Sue Morris, also of Orlando.

Jason's death comes less than a month after another student's tragic death at this small, private school. Third grader Jennifer Wood, 9, died Nov. 14 when she hung herself in the closet of her home in Pahokee.



SANTA MADE AN APPEARANCE at the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce this past weekend. "KEL" Lutz, 3, of Belle Glade tells Santa what he'd like for Christmas.



The 11th Annual Living Christmas Tree program was held this past weekend at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center. Over 200 people attended Saturday evening and several hundred more attended the Sunday afternoon performance.

Belle Glade discusses changing election date from September to March

By Brenda Bunting Editor

Requests from some Belle Glade voters, has city commissioners considering changing the city's election date from September to March.

Mayor Harma Miller told fellow commissioners Monday night residents have asked for the change and she wants to accommodate their wishes.

Currently, the city holds elections each September, with two of the five commissioners up for election one year and the three remaining up for election the next September.

During Monday night's commission meeting, plans were discussed to not only change the month of the election but possibly to change the length of commissioner's terms from two years to three, or possibly even four year terms. "I believe two years is

not enough time for a commissioner to learn all they need to know before they are up for re-election," said Commissioner Mary Ross Wilkerson.

The date of the election could be done by a city resolution, but changing the length of a commissioner's term would require a majority yes vote from the city's voters.

Mayor Miller said March is a better time for Belle Glade residents to go to the polls because those who follow the crop harvesting are not here in September. "We want to do what ever is best for our constituents," she said.

Commissioner Wilkerson agreed, saying, "I want to see this put on the September ballot. Let the citizens make the decision on term limits and the dates of the election."

City Attorney Charles

Schoech said County Supervisor of Elections Teresa LaPore has told him it is possible the voting tabulation machine could also be brought back to the Glades for elections if the three cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay held their elections at the same time.

The temperature-sensitive machine would have to be used in a climate controlled area, such as the courthouse in Belle Glade. Currently, candidates and city officials must go to the Supervisor of Elections office in West Palm Beach to have votes tabulated.

Mr. Schoech also said there is not enough time for the election date to change for March of 2000 because of advertising requirements and meeting county requirements. If changed, the first March election would take place in March of 2001.

Tracy Whirls named Associate Editor at The Sun

Tracy Whirls, former managing editor of the Clewiston News and the Glades County Democrat, has joined the staff of The Sun as an associate editor, replacing Debra Miller who has assumed the editor's position in Clewiston.

"After having spent a year chained to a desk, I'm looking forward to going back to my first love, writing," Ms. Whirls said. "With projects like the Florida Scenic Trail under way, and the redevelopment of Pahokee, a lot of exciting things are poised to happen in Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay and I'm looking forward to providing coverage of these and other events for The Sun."

A graduate of Kentucky State University in Frankfort,



Tracy Whirls

Ky., Ms. Whirls came to south Florida in 1995 as an associate editor for the Daily Okeechobee News, before accepting a position as editor of the Clewiston News. A resident of Hendry County, Ms. Whirls has two sons who attend Clewiston High School.

"I come from a small town in central Kentucky. I love the

rustic atmosphere and the hospitality of the people in the Glades.

"After living here nearly five years, this area has become my home, and I'm excited about the opportunities and challenges that face the area as we prepare to enter the new millennium. I'm looking forward to meeting new friends on this side of the lake, as well as continuing friendships I've made during my stint in Clewiston and Moore Haven," Ms. Whirls said.

"Tracy is a seasoned writer and we welcome her to The Sun," said Editor and General Manager Brenda Bunting. "Her knowledge of government, the agricultural community, and experience with small, hometown newspapers will be a real asset to us," she said.

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To help keep your family healthy, take food's temperature



Worried about food safety? The United States Department of Agriculture urges cooks to use thermometers.

Katrina Elkin, Contributing Editor, to make sure cooked food is safe to eat. According to the USDA, using a food thermometer is the only reliable way to determine the "doneness" of food and to ensure safety. To be safe, food

must be cooked to an internal temperature high enough to destroy harmful bacteria. These bacteria grow slowly at low temperatures, rapidly at mid-range temperatures and are killed at temperatures above 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

USDA research indicates that only about 50 percent of American cooks use meat thermometers.

Some consumers don't use thermometers because they don't like the hassle of opening the oven and inserting the thermometer to check the food.

Some cooks aren't sure exact-

ly how to use a standard meat thermometer, or don't know what temperature is right for various foods.

Some new thermometers on the market might help change that. One type is attached with a cord to a digital screen. The probe goes in the food and the cord extends to the counter or stove top. Another type has a beeper that goes off when the desired internal temperature is reached. The advantage of these thermometers is that you don't have to open the oven door to find out if the food is done.

Disposable food thermometers are also now available. These are left in the food and change color when the food is done. The disposable thermometer comes in a variety of choices, with one color for chicken, another for pork.

Here are some tips on food temperature from the USDA:

- When taking the temperature of beef, pork or lamb, place the thermometer midway in the roast, avoiding the bone. When cooking hamburgers, steaks or chops, insert the thermometer in the thickest part, away from bone, fat or gristle.

Beef should be cooked to a minimum of 160 degrees Fahrenheit; pork to 170 degrees and lamb to 180 degrees.

- When cooking whole poultry, the thermometer should be inserted into the thickest part of the thigh. Poultry should be cooked to 190 degrees Fahrenheit. If poultry is stuffed, the stuffing must reach 165 degrees.

- Read the instructions that come with your meat thermometer. For example, follow the instructions for proper cleaning carefully. In general, you can't put a thermometer in

the dishwasher.

For additional information about food safety, call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at (800) 535-4555. The hotline is staffed by home economists, registered dietitians and food technologists weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. An extensive selection of food safety recordings, answering the most commonly-asked questions, can be accessed 24 hours a day if you have a touch-tone phone. Information is also available on the USDA website at www.fsis.usda.gov.

ER Chronicles: Feeling Real Weak



By Arlen R. Stauffer, MD. Occasionally, Jared had days when he wished he could go back to bed and start over. Today was one of those days. There was that

annoying cramping feeling deep down in his belly this morning, and that gnawing sensation of emptiness in the pit of his stomach this afternoon. Now, there was a tremendous urge to hurry to the bathroom.

What came out of Jared in his bathroom was scary.

Blood! He stared in disbelief. Blood! He began feeling lightheaded. Jared cleaned himself up, but when he stood in front of the bathroom mirror, he was scared again. He was as white as a ghost.

"Have you ever had any bleeding in your stomach or bowel before?" Emergency physician Tammy Cortez began the questions before Jared could even be moved from the

ambulance stretcher to the ER bed.

The paramedic had started one IV line on the way to the ER, and now ER nurse Phil was placing a second line in Jared's arm. Another nurse was checking the blood pressure.

"I don't think I ever bled before this, Doc."

"Have you been having any pain?"

"Just a little cramping this morning, Doc." Jared winced as a technician drew a few tubes of blood from a vein. "I feel a little weak, but really I think I'm OK."

Cortez continued the questions.

"Have you ever had ulcers?"

"No."

"Any bowel problems like colitis?"

"No, Doc. I'm telling you...I'm a healthy guy!"

Cortez probed Jared's abdomen, searching for any areas of tenderness. She glanced up at the vital signs recorded on the monitor screen above the bed. She turned back to Phil.

"Phil, let's run in at least a liter of saline. His pressure's only 100 over 60. And put a nasogastric tube down into his

stomach to see if any of this blood is coming from up there."

Phil opened up both IV lines, and the saline solution flowed quickly into Jared's veins. He quickly slid the plastic tube through Jared's nose and into his stomach. Cortez retreated to the ER secretary's desk.

"Let's get a blood count, and ask the blood bank to get four units of blood ready for him; I think he's going to need some pretty soon."

Returning to Jared's bedside, Cortez was unrelenting in her questioning.

"Jared, do you take any aspirin or arthritis medications...maybe some ibuprofen?"

"No, Doc."

"How about alcohol?" she asked as she noticed no blood coming from the tube in his stomach. "How much do you drink?"

"I'm a tea-totaler, Doc." Jared shook his head. He was starting to feel like he was undergoing some sort of legal inquiry. Why was she asking so many questions?

"You know, Jared, it's really important to try to figure out what's bleeding in there." Cortez sensed his growing frustration. "We have to know what

the possibilities are in order to pick the best treatment plan for you. We want to stop the bleeding."

Jared sighed. "OK, Doc. I'll try to help." Then his eyes grew larger as he noticed Cortez pulling on a pair of gloves.

"Hey, Doc. What are you doing there?" This was the first female physician Jared had ever encountered, and he was afraid to guess what was coming next.

"Jared, I need to see just how much blood is coming from your bowel. Just roll onto your side; this will only take a second." Her voice was calm and matter-of-fact.

Jared turned on his side and closed his eyes.

Soon, Cortez was on the phone.

"Hi, Jay," she said to Dr. Jay Paters, the gastroenterologist on call for the ER today. "I've got a 58-year old man here with GI bleeding. It appears to be from the lower GI tract. His blood pressure was a borderline 90 or so when he came in, but is now 130 after some IV fluid." She went on to describe Jared's examination and the results of his lab tests.

"I've got a couple units of

blood here now from the blood bank, and I'll get those started. See you in a few minutes."

As Cortez hung up the telephone, Phil approached quickly.

"Hey, Doc. He just put out a whole bedpan full of blood, and his pressure's dropping again."

She hurried back to Jared's side.

"Let's pump both of these units of blood in Stat!" She noticed the blood pressure of 80 over 60 on the monitor. "And tell the lab we'll need at least four more units."

Now Jared was feeling real weak.

Gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding is a common problem seen in emergency departments, and has an annual incidence in this country of more than one per thousand.

"Upper GI" bleeding occurs in

the esophagus, stomach, or upper part of the small bowel, and can be caused by ulcer disease, inflammation problems, tears in the lining of the esophagus or stomach, tumors, or other causes.

Although less common, "Lower GI" bleeding, from the colon or rectum, can also be life-threatening. It is commonly caused by diverticulosis, malformations of blood vessels in the colon, hemorrhoids, infections, or cancers.

All GI bleeding should be investigated, its cause determined, and some specific treatment initiated.

Dr. Stauffer, an emergency physician in New Smyrna Beach, is a member of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians. www.fcep.org

Exercise your brain

It's a common fear. The fear that with the onset of advantage age we'll lose the ability to think clearly and become feeble minded. But growing older doesn't necessarily mean that thinking ability declines. There is some indication that response time slows down, even in healthy older adults, but that doesn't mean that thinking ("is impaired"), says Radford University psychology professor and Alzheimer's disease researcher Thomas Pierce.

At RU's center for Brain Research in Radford, Virginia, Pierce conducts research that compares the reaction times of young people, healthy older people respond more slowly, but younger adults have more mistakes, more errors," he says. "It may be that older people need to sift through more connections but they take their time and get it right."

Pierce says that impaired or confused thought in older age, often called senility or dementia, is associated with physical problems that can accompany age, but don't necessarily arrive because a person survives to an advantage age. Alzheimer's disease or strokes, for example. But Pierce says that a healthy older person who exercises both mind and body can maintain agile thinking abilities no matter their age—especially if they work at it.

According to Pierce, the keys to maintaining a healthy older brain are the same as those for maintaining a healthy older body - good nutrition and exercise.



Palm Beach Community College Belle Glade welcomes

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Andre Russell has been involved in numerous organizations, businesses and high school activities in the Glades community. He is committed to helping area youth develop their skills for the world of work. If you have the ambition and initiative to pursue your goals, Andre will provide his personal assistance. Let him help you get the skills you need to get that job you want!



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OPINION PAGE

Feel strongly about local issues?



The Sun INVITES YOU TO SPEAK OUT! (561) 996-6636

Speak Out is our 24-hour opinion line.
Call 996-6636 to express your opinion or ask questions about public issues.
You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

Question about water meter reading in Belle Glade

This question is about the water meters in Belle Glade. I think it's a shame that when they come around to check your water meter that you can go out there and see that they haven't even checked it. The grass is growing over the meter, so how could they be checking it?

My water bill is \$100 and I think that is ridiculous and I don't think they're checking the water meters. They will come right away to cut your water off, but on other things, I don't think they're doing their job right."

Belle Glade City Manager Shelton Smith responds: The City of Belle Glade makes every attempt to accurately read water meters located throughout the city; however, there are situations when a customer's water consumption may be estimated.

An estimated bill is denoted by a letter "E" next to the customer's consumption amount located on the left hand side of the water bill. Examples of situations in which a water bill may be estimated include, but are not limited to:

1. The meter is unable to be read because it is located within a customer's locked fence.
2. The meter is buried under muck or sod.
3. The meter is covered by trash or garbage.
4. The meter is under water due to flooding.
5. The meter is broken.

The city reads approximately 6,500 meters a month with an average of 86 estimated bills per month.

After the city estimates the bill, the Water Department works diligently to address the problem that caused the estimation of the consumption. Once the actual consumption is measured the customer's next water bill will automatically balance and adjust itself to accurately reflect the correct billing amount and consumption.

If any customer has questions concerning an estimated bill, he or she should contact the City of Belle Glade's Customer Service division or Finance Department at 996-0100.

The city staff understands that meter reads are even more sensitive now due to the recent rate increases. With that in mind, we are doing all we can to insure the accuracy of the water bills for the citizens of Belle Glade."

Responding to Speak Out

Editor's note: The following is in response to a November 25 Speak Out comment from a resident who asked why the old Pahokee Hospital couldn't be used as an emergency shelter.

Cecil Bennett, CEO of the Palm Beach County Health Care District says, "If the current structure is empty next year, we will consider using the old hospital as an emergency shelter."

...

Also, two residents gave specific lights in Belle Glade they feel need to be fine tuned to accommodate traffic.

One caller said the light at West Canal Street and Fifth Street stays red much too long and green for only a minimal amount of time.

Another problem light which was mentioned is at the corner of East Canal Street and North Main. This light also does not stay green for very long and allows, at the most, three to four cars to cross before it changes.

Michael R. Miller, director of public safety/chief of police responds: "Thank you for expressing your concerns about traffic control devices. Proper flow of traffic and traffic safety are very important matters which I take seriously. As a general protocol, our traffic system is designed to move the greatest number of vehicles through our community in the safest, most expedient manner. I have personally inspected the timing of every traffic control device in the city and found them to be time there are isolated problems due to power failures, computer glitches, or routine maintenance problems."

In order to properly address your complaint I need you to contact me directly and to provide specific information so these problems can be corrected. Your cooperation in this matter is necessary and appreciated."

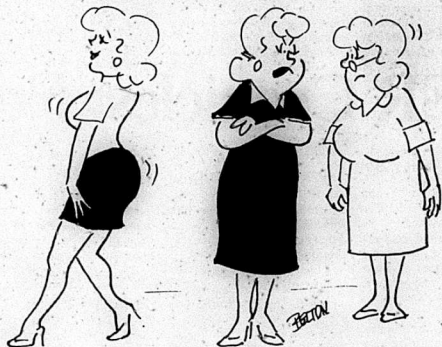
City hall not fixed yet

"I do not condone violence. As a matter of fact, I hate violence, but I'm wondering when that lady burned down city hall in South Bay, if it was logical, to show the people that we don't need a city hall in South Bay?"

What I'm saying is, if we did need a city hall, and I still believe we do, how is it that from the time it has been burned down, nothing has been done, dramatically to build this back or refurbish it so it can be used.

Secondly, apparently the people in South

WELCOME!
20TH
CLASS
REUNION



"SUE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT IN 20 YEARS... ISN'T THAT DISGUSTING?"

Bay are complacent; because if they're so satisfied with the facilities they are using (Tanner Park for city commission meetings and the old post office for our city-related business).

If it was important for the city commission, they would have gotten this fixed by now. Each time we ask about it we

are told, "we are doing this and we are doing that" but I cannot see the purpose. Are we complacent or do we just not care? This is the message we seem to be giving. Thank you."

Editor's note: We spoke with South Bay City Clerk Virginia Walker who says much

progress has been made on renovating city hall and only a few minor things need to be finished before employees move back into the building. "Things take a while, but we are currently moving furniture in. We have some small things, carpet, some electrical work, but we expect to be moved back in by the end of the year."

Avoid holiday risks with trees, heaters and fireworks



By Bill Nelson
State Treasurer, Fire
Marshal and Insurance
Commissioner

The holiday season is a time for celebration... and caution.

More than one-third of residential fire deaths occur during the winter months. And hundreds of Christmas tree fires break out every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

This season, there's even more reason for concern: celebrations of the new millennium are expected to include record-high use of fireworks, which can be especially dangerous at events or parties where alcoholic drinks are served.

As New Year's Eve approaches, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has launched an initiative to curb injuries and deaths from fireworks throughout the nation. Here in Florida, state law allows for the sale and use of sparklers and other novelties

approved by the State Fire Marshal, but outlaws the private use of products that launch or explode. Our office stands ready to assist and support local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to enforce that law during this holiday season.

Meanwhile, as the season brings cooler temperatures, it also poses increased dangers in our homes - dangers like the build-up of a flammable chemical called "creosote" in fireplace chimneys and wood stoves; portable heaters left unattended or too close to flammable items; mistakes in fueling gasoline or liquid-filled heaters; and damaged or frayed light cords draped on Christmas trees that become brittle for lack of watering.

The NFPA estimates that Christmas tree fires cause an average of 33 deaths and \$21 million in property damage each year. In 1998, 17 Christmas tree fires causing more than \$33,000 in property damage occurred in Florida. Fortunately, we were spared any loss of life or injuries in those fires.

Most holiday hazards can be avoided by taking precautions such as:

- Keep all portable heaters at least three feet away from flammable items. Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep. Also, use only manufacturer-recommended fuel in portable kerosene heaters. Shut down and cool off such equipment

before refueling.

- Keep a tightly-fitted screen on your fireplace, and obtain a professional inspection annually before usage. Have your chimney cleaned on a regular basis.

If you celebrate the holidays with a live Christmas tree, find a fresh one and water it regularly. Also, keep the tree away from any heat sources or exits. If you use an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled as flame retardant.

- Check holiday lights to make sure they carry the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Never use frayed or damaged strings, or mix indoor and outdoor lights. Also, unplug lights before going to sleep each night or leaving your home.

Be careful when burning candles. Fires resulting from tipped candles cause nearly \$59 million in property damage each year, according to the NFPA. Place candles in non-combustible holders well away from flammable materials.

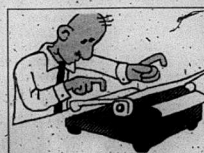
- Only use sparklers and related novelties approved by our Office of State Fire Marshal. You may obtain a list of approved sparklers from our website at www.doi.state.fl.us (click on our State Fire Marshal links). The sale or use of illegal fireworks can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and a one year jail term.

State Fire Marshal Bill Nelson also serves as State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner

About letters

To voice your opinion about Glades issues, or to respond favorably or unfavorably to articles printed in the paper, we encourage you to write us a letter. Send to:

The Sun
417 N.W. 16th Street #6, Belle Glade, FL 33430



The Sun

A PLEDGE TO OUR READERS

We pledge...

- ✓ To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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Miami tornado in 1997 made for great pictures



Mike Lyons

tant."

He's right, of course. While the Miami Tornado made for great pictures (while producing significant damage in the downtown area), it wasn't one of Florida's top 20 weather events this century.

While every list of the greatest whatever of the 20th century is highly subjective, I think Lushine does a good job cataloging the weather events that made history over the past 100 years.

Given our region's history of hurricanes, the top three selections won't surprise anyone. All three are infamous hurricanes that will never be forgotten.

Number one is the Great Miami hurricane of 1926. "This storm killed as many as 1,000 people," said Lushine. "Damage was catastrophic, over \$80 billion in 1998 dollars. Plus, it halted a major building boom in south Florida."

Hurricane Andrew, a storm many of us are personally familiar with, ranks second on the list. The \$29 billion dollar storm is the costliest hurricane in history.

In third place is the Lake Okechobee hurricane, Florida's deadliest hurricane that claimed at least 2,000 lives in Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and Clewiston.

All together, six hurricanes make Lushine's list. "I could have made just a list of memorable hurricanes," said Lushine. "But, other weather events deserved to be placed on the list, too."

Our region's only snowstorm

of the 20th century ranks fourth on Lushine's list. If you were here on the morning of January 19, 1977 it is an event you will never forget. Snow fell along the Treasure Coast and the Palm Beaches, in downtown Miami and as far south as Homestead. There were even snow flurries in the Bahamas.

Number five may come as a surprise, particularly when one considers how often it rains in Florida. Occasionally, however, the rain stops and the result can be a significant drought. Perhaps our area's worst drought occurred from June of 1970 to May of 1971.

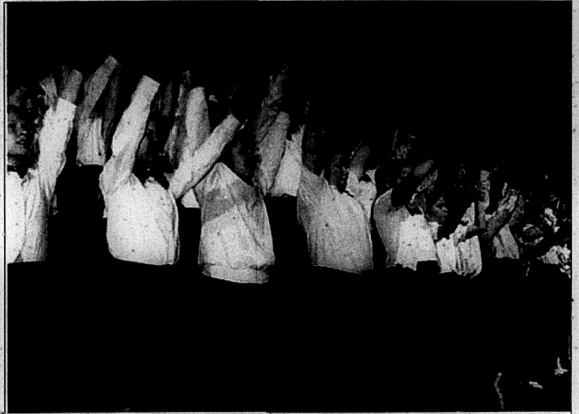
"Rain was in short supply during that period," said Lushine. "Only 31 inches fell during those 12 months, about half of the normal total. It was so dry that 250,000 acres burned in the Everglades."

Other memorable weather events on the list include the Christmas Day freeze of 1989, an air pollution problem that developed in May of 1972 and the mass immigration episodes of April 1980 and September of 1994, when hundreds of rafters from Cuba were caught in 100 mph wind squalls.

The list also includes tornado outbreaks, rip current deaths, flooding and lightning incidents. About the only type of weather missing is a hailstorm, a phenomenon that is fairly rare in South Florida.

Overall, it's a fascinating list of weather events.

(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WPTF-TV)



The Youth Choir performed during the Living Christmas Tree program at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center on Saturday and again on Sunday. The choir is under the direction of Becky Watson.



Ring in the season...The Community United Methodist Church Annual Bazaar always kicks off the Christmas season in the Glades. Shown above is Ulaina Whitlock (standing, far left) giving Dolly Hand the money for her purchases while Marilyn Sims looks on.



Lorenzo Bernard Lewis

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate Lorenzo Bernard Lewis who is wanted for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and two counts of contempt of court.

Lewis is a black male, 5'6" tall, and weighs 156 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and his date of birth is April 16, 1964.

His last known address was 633 S.W. Eighth Street, Belle

Glade.

His Social Security number is 267-51-7084 and his last occupation was as a laborer. His warrant was active as of December 1, 1999.

If you know the whereabouts of Lorenzo Bernard Lewis or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department made 9 arrests and issued 30 traffic citations the week of November 29-Dec. 5.

Those arrested included:

November 29 - Charles Covington, 44, burglary, and trespassing after warning.

November 30 - No arrests made.

December 1 - Jerry Lee Breesen, 60, failure to appear in court; Juvenile, 14, burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief; Juvenile, 17, burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief.

December 2 - No arrests made.

December 3 - Wayne Norris Jr., 45, possession of cocaine and tampering with evidence; John Knight, 32, dealing in stolen property; Louis Sepulveda, 29, contempt of court; Joseph Moulton, 25, aggravated battery; Charlie McKelton, 38, burglary, felony retail theft.

December 4 - No arrests made.

December 5 - No arrests made.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 612 complaints and gave 24 traffic citations the week of November 29-December 5.

Those arrested included:

November 29 - No arrests made.

November 30 - No arrests made.

December 1 - Juvenile, 17, gambling with dice and resisting arrest without violence.

December 2 - Israel Hester, 30, loitering and prowling; Terry Bruce Walker, 41, obtaining property by fraudulent promise to furnish inside information; Dorothy Davis, 26, warrant for driving while license suspended/revoked and violation of probation.

December 3 - Tremaine Rogie, 19, burglary of a business, grand theft, burglary of a vehicle; Ricardo Ramos, 20, burglary of a business, burglary of a conveyance and grand theft; Aresse Green, 22, grand theft, violation of probation, possession of marijuana over 20

grams and possession of marijuana with intent to sell; Ralph Manning, 39, two counts of aggravated domestic assault with a motor vehicle.

December 4 - Benny Lee Tate Jr., 31, retail theft; Clifton Walker, 19, uttering a forged instrument and attempted petty theft; Latoria Harris, 18, petty theft; Henry Lee Givens, 25, failure to appear.

December 5 - Charles Grey, 27, possession of narcotic paraphernalia, molesting a coin operated vending machine and petty theft; Joseph Huggins, 40, trespassing and petty theft; Marie Spradley, 27, grand theft; Lewis Higgs, 53, possession of cocaine and possession of narcotic paraphernalia; Willie Barnes, 22, violation of probation, possession of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell; Margarita Quintanilla, 21, possession of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell; Daniel Miller, 44, child abuse; Reyes Carenas, 34, battery on a law enforcement officer.

SOUTH BAY

The South Bay Police Department made 7 arrests the week of November 28-December 4.

Those arrested included:

November 28 - Don Johnson, 31, warrant for battery.

November 29 - No arrests made.

November 30 - Henry Green, 40, possession of drug paraphernalia.

December 1 - Bernie Nichols, 19, warrant for revoking a pretrial release agreement; Francisco Ramirez-Cardenas, 31, aggravated battery.

December 2 - No arrests made.

December 3 - Andro King, 37, disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia. Manuel Washington, 26, warrant for failure to appear; Demaster Brown, 25, violation of the open container law.

December 4 - Willie Lee Bradley, 57, aggravated assault with a firearm.

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Averill's Studio and Gifts was also on the Holiday Shop at Home tour. Shown, from left are owners Tina and Ed Rongione with Tina's Mom, Wylene Lockhart.



Everglades Trading Post also participated in the Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 4. Shown enjoying the punch is Leanna and Vera Robinson. Employee Joyce Pace serves.



Holiday open house...The Rose Pedal in Belle Glade participated in the annual Holiday Open House sponsored by the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce. Holiday shoppers toured various businesses in Belle Glade, and enjoyed the season's flavor. Shown kneeling, from left are shoppers Barbara Branch and Rose Pedal employee Debi Stutsman. Standing, from left are employees Dorothy Meeds and Margie Branch.



Kid Zone, Inc. opens in Belle Glade...A new kid's clothing store has opened in Belle Glade at 189 West Avenue A. Shown with some of the beautiful girl's dresses are (l-r) Gloria Whitehorse and co-owner Eliane Jacques.

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Kid Zone, Inc. opens in Belle Glade

Finding that perfect dressy outfit for your child's Christening, a special wedding or a birthday party just got easier. Kid Zone, Inc. has opened in Belle Glade at 189 West Avenue A, across from Payless Shoe Zone. Kid Zone, co-owned by Eliane Jacques and Nader Ramsi, opened a few weeks ago. Ms. Jacques said she and Mr.

Ramsi own Outrageous Kids, another children's clothing store in the Palm Beach Mall. "We were always getting people from Belle Glade who said 'why don't you open a store in Belle Glade?', so we decided to do this," said Ms. Jacques. The store carries casual and formal wear for boys and girls from infant to pre-teen. They

also carry hair bows, wedding attire, Tuxedos, shoes, socks, barrettes, tights, etc. "Anyone needing a special outfit for a special occasion should come and see us," said Ms. Jacques. The store is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The telephone number is 992-8300.



Continued from Page 1

Reading Retreat offered

A Reading Retreat will be offered for all families of third and fourth grade students at Pioneer Park Elementary. The retreat will be Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school. Information concerning the student's reading level will be available to parents. Families are invited to attend and lunch will be served. Child care will also be provided. For further information, please contact Edna Stephens at 993-4480.

Family Fun Night

The Title I Migrant Program is sponsoring a "Family Fun Night" at McDonald's on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Parents and friends who eat at McDonald's this night will help the Title I Migrant Program to receive 15 percent from every purchase when a voucher is presented to the

cashier.

There will be fun activities such as storytelling, math activities, face painting and interacting with the Title I Migrant staff.

SAC meeting at Lake Shore Middle School

There will be a Student Advisory Committee meeting for parents at Lake Shore Middle School on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Media Center. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Non-profit agencies can seek block grant entitlement

The City of Belle Glade is accepting applications for its 26th program year of Community Development Block Grant Entitlement. All interested non-profit agencies are asked to contact the City of Belle Glade Community Development Office, at 996-0100 if they are interested in obtaining an application packet. The deadline to submit an application is Dec. 27 at 5 p.m.

Chamber sponsoring Decorating Contest

The Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce will again this year

sponsor their home and business holiday decorating contest. Businesses and homeowners who wish to participate should call Janice Goforth at the Chamber at 996-2745.

Judging will be held on Dec. 17 after dark. Certificates will be awarded to the winners of the contest.

Leadership Rally

The American Cancer Society invites the public to attend a leadership Rally to celebrate Relay for Life 2000.

The event will be held Thursday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Drawbridge Cafe or Tory Island Road, Belle Glade. Please RSVP to 924-5141, extension 115 by Dec. 14.

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Eight of 25 students who will graduate from Palm Beach Community College next Friday joined Provost Helen Franks Monday for a pizza party and brainstorming session at the "Fabulous" Glades Campus. Pictured are, front row Mary-Anne Hollingsworth, Lt. Robert J. Grande and Lillian Jones; back row, Lee Washington, PBCC Provost Helen Frank, Emily Watson, Maxine Holland, Yolanda Cook and Harold Miller.

Glades Day honors athletes



Receiving awards for Glades Day's JV volleyball team are Cristina Rionda, Coach's Award; Anne Lee, Most Improved; Amanda Browder, Best Defensive Player; Crystal Doney, Best Offensive Player; Jessica Paez and Shelby Markham, Gator Awards.



Sophomore Eric Wingate, left, was named Most Improved Player for Glades Day School's golf team and Daniel Veale received the MVP for the boys' cross country team.



Junior Peggy Altman, left, received the Most Valuable Runner award for girls' cross country at Glades Day School's awards ceremony honoring volleyball, golf and cross country athletes. Angie Gonzalez (center) was named the Most Improved Runner and Stephanie Lynn, right, received the Coach's Award.

Glades Day School honored its athletes in volleyball, golf and cross country at the annual Fall Sports award program held last month in the school's Tripp Hall.

A highlight of the ceremony was the recognition of the boys' and girls' cross country teams, who advanced to regional competition in only their first year of existence.

Juniors Peggy Altman and Daniel Veale, who were the first GDS runners to win a cross country meet, were named the Most Valuable Runners in their division. Altman had also finished 13th overall in the district meet and Veale came in 15th place.

Coach Ange Lohmann also presented trophies to Angie Gonzalez and Jai Subramanya, Most Improved Runners; and to Stephanie Lynn, who received the Coach's Award.

In varsity volleyball, Head Coach Gary Slade presented trophies to senior captain Lindsay Curtiss, who received the MVP award; Kristina Sanchez, Most Improved Player; Beth McLeod, Unsung Hero; Carmen Paez, the Coach's Award; and Hela Barboush, the Gator Award.

Awards for JV volleyball went to Amanda Browder, Best Defensive Player; Crystal Doney, Best Offensive Player; Anne Lee, Most Improved; Cristina Rionda, Coach's Award and Jessica Paez and Shelby Markham, Gator Awards.



Glades Day's varsity volleyball players received trophies from Head Coach Gary Slade at the Fall Sports awards program last month. Pictured are Carmen Paez, Coaches' Award; Beth McLeod, Unsung Hero; Lindsay Curtiss, MVP; Coach Gary Slade; Kristina Sanchez, Most Improved and Hela Barboush, 'Gator' Award.

PBCC to graduate 25 local students Dec. 17

By TRACY WHIRLS

Palm Beach Community College "Fabulous" Glades Campus Provost Helen Frank invited the 25 students who will graduate with their associate's degrees Dec. 17 to a pizza party Monday, to celebrate their achievement, and to solicit input from the students as to what the school can do to recruit and retain more students and what the campus can do to make their educational experience better.

Those who will be attending commencement exercises include: Kimberly D. Allen of West Palm Beach, Antwayne Osby of Lake Worth, Carolyn Vickers of Clewiston, Mary-Anne Hollingsworth of Belle Glade, Christopher Stevens of Belle Glade, Robert J. Grande of South Bay, Justin Blakley of Belle Glade, Gregory Green of West Palm Beach, Anita Mowrer of South Bay, Emily Watson of Belle Glade, Teressa Mincey of Pahokee, Maxine Holland of Belle Glade, Lillian Jones of South Bay, Daniel Walker of Belle Glade, Rene Morales, Amanda Potts, John Singleton, and Lindsay Howell, all of Clewiston, Erin G. Meadows and Harold Miller, both of Belle Glade, Yolanda Cook of Pahokee, and Lee Washington and Oneida Guenavista, both of Belle Glade.

Ms. Frank said 1200 students enrolled at PBCC's Fabulous Glades Campus for fall 1999, a 21 percent increase in enrollment over last year. The interviews with graduating students are intended to identify areas where the school can improve its services and continue to boost enrollment.

Ms. Frank said such efforts are in keeping with PBCC president Dennis Galaris' "Glades Initiative," to make Palm Beach Community College's Fabulous Glades Campus the first choice of students in the Glades and providing them with equal access to programs PBCC offers.

Among the suggestions from students that Ms. Frank will be exploring for implementation next fall:

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Saturday, December 11, 1999 at 5:00 PM

THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

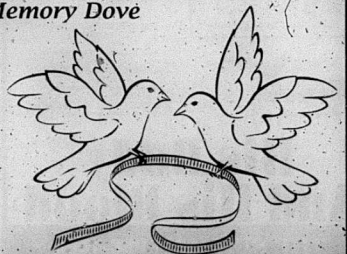
Refreshments will be served. RSVP at 996-6122

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The American Lung Association has visited the Glades PATCH Board at the Health Care District's Belle Glade Office recently. Pictured, left to right, are board members Dr. Virkud, Sandra Chamblee, Henrietta Johnson, Elizabeth Hernandez, Judy Gallo, Mercedes Robinson, Lisa Waldon and Patty Hood.

Brady Family to perform at Miracle Temple

The Brady Family, described as a group bonded together by God's perfect love and will, will perform Saturday, Dec. 11 from 7-9 p.m. at the Miracle Temple, 104 SW 16th Street (SR 715).

Holly Branch of Belle Glade will open the gospel concert. The Brady Family started singing together as a group in April 1996, and includes Arthur and Cloana Brady, their daughter Curtis Brady Shippee, soundman and son-in-law William (Billy) Shippee, Jr. and grandchildren Alexander and Breanna.

The Miracle Temple will host a revival from Dec. 12-19. Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. with weeknight services beginning at 7 p.m. nightly.

The special guest speaker during the weeklong revival will be international evangelist Norman Walker.

Everyone is welcome. Come. Alvin Nicolas.

Obituaries

Jason Earl Morris, 17, of Belle Glade died Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1999 in an auto accident. Jason was a senior at Glades Day School and was a member of the Cross Country Track Team.

Jason is survived by his parents, David and Rebecca Morris of Belle Glade; a brother, Jonathan, and his wife Amy, of Belle Glade; and two sisters, Anita L. Wells and her husband Joe, and Amy Sue Morris, all of Orlando; and maternal grandparents, David and Ruth Du Pree of Franklin, N.C.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1999 at the First Baptist Church in Belle Glade with Reverend Gary Folds officiating. Interment followed at Port Mayaca Cemetery. Glades Funeral Chapel of Belle Glade was in charge of arrangements.

J.D. Stacy, 81, of Jensen Beach died Thursday, Dec. 2, 1999 following a long illness. He was a native of Lake City, Ark. and a resident of Jensen Beach for the past 22 years. He was a retired vice president of Agriculture for the U.S. Sugar Corporation where he was employed for 35 years, and had resided in the Glades Area for 30 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Port Salerno.

Mr. Stacy is survived by his wife, Beatrice Lucille Stacy of Jensen Beach; five sons, Jack Dale Stacy of Belle Glade, Michael E. Stacy of Lakeland, Dr. Robert Wayne Stacy of Belling Spring, N.C., Ralph Lane Stacy of Ocala, Jerry Cunningham of Germantown, Tenn.; three daughters, Dorothy Louise Rector of Stuart, Evelyn Ann Rushing of Jensen Beach and Kay Lynn Massey of Jonesboro; a brother, Robert Stacy of Clewiston; three sisters, Letha Rice and Carley Walls, both of Belle Glade and Julia Driggers of Fort Myers; 15 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 6, 1999 at the First Baptist Church of Port Salerno, with the Rev. Joe Harper and Dr. Robert Wayne Stacy officiating. Interment followed in the Ridgeland Cemetery in Clewiston. Arrangements were made by Akin-Davis Funeral Home of Clewiston.

Reba Davis, 48, of Pahokee died Saturday, Dec. 4, 1999 at her residence following an extended illness.

A native of Pahokee, she was born on Oct. 23, 1951, the daughter of the late James Hilton and Inez Peaden Jones. She was a graduate of Pahokee High School, class of 1969. For many years she worked with her sister-in-law at Pahokee Flower Shop. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Dale Allen, Archie Thomas and Ralph Dalton Jones.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald Davis of Pahokee; two sons, Brian and Keith Davis, both of Pahokee; her stepmother, Mary Jane Jones of Pahokee; a brother, Ronnie Jones of Canal Point; two step brothers, Tony Eggers of Jacksonville and Richard Eggers of Greenup, Ill.; three step sisters, Wanda Chin-Aleong of Washington, D.C., Mary E. Barnes of Interlachen and Anita Courson of Belle Glade; and one grandson, Brian Wayne "Scooter" Davis, Jr. of Pahokee.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1999 at the Canal Point Baptist Church with the Rev. James A. Bennett, pastor, officiating. Interment followed in the Port Mayaca Cemetery. Nephews Michael Fink, Mark Fink, Brad Bradow, Michael Davis, Darryl Jones and Chip Jones served as pallbearers. The James A. Bennett Funeral Home of Pahokee was in charge of the arrangements.

Dr. Lee Drake to speak on 'Holiday Support'

Dr. Lee Drake, Ph.D., will be speaking on "Holiday Support" on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at the Mixon Funeral Home.

Renowned for his compassion and understanding of the grieving process and human nature itself, Dr. Drake's programs are informative, helpful and reassuring. He is a sought after speaker for church and civic organizations.

Dr. Drake will also be leading the "Candlelighting Ceremony" planned for the same evening beginning at 7 p.m.

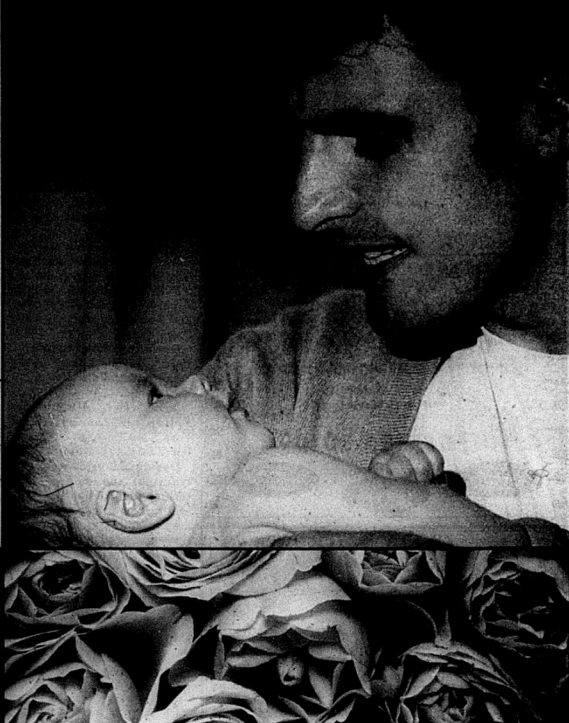
Anyone planning to attend is requested to telephone Mixon Funeral Home at (561) 996-6722.





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Xi Zeta Mu hold Christmas party

Xi Zeta Mu held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Linda McMillian Nov. 22. The meeting was hosted by Ms. McMillian and co-hosted by Gloria Swager.

Following a delightful supper, Gloria Swager shared a poem, "Fill your heart with Thanksgiving," by Helen Steiner Rice. A selection from Ideals Count: "Red Beans and Cornbread" was

also shared. To conclude her program, Mrs. Swager read an editorial entitled "Media's influence overtake parents now that's scary."

Janice Goforth, club president, presided over the meeting. The evening's gift raffle winner was Linda McMillian.

The group also discussed plans for their annual Christmas party, which was held Monday, Dec. 6 at the

home of club sponsor Jane Evans.

Those present at the November meeting were Florence Acree, Sandra Chamblee, Karen Corbin, Laura Mae Enfinger, Jane Evans, Janice Goforth, Judy McMillian, Linda McMillian, Pat McKee, Laverne Motes, Sara Phillips, Gloria Swager, Laurel Tarr and Greadle York.



Xi Zeta Mu visits Cypress Gardens Saturday, Nov. 13 members of Xi Zeta Mu sorority enjoyed a day at Cypress Gardens during the 15th annual Mum Festival. The day was filled with many activities, including the ski show, ice show, a boat ride through the gardens and of course, shopping. Those in attendance were: Sandra Chamblee, Karen Corbin, Jane Evans, Janice Goforth, Laverne Motes, Pat McKee, her granddaughter Valerie McKee, Judy McMillian, Linda McMillian, Sara Phillips and Laurel Tarr.

Military news

Army Pvt. Alvin Mack has graduated from the water treatment specialist course at Fort Lee,

Petersburg, Va. Pvt. Mack was instructed to assist in water reconnaissance, site preparation, and

the setup of a water treatment activity. They learned to operate and maintain water treatment equipment, receive, issue and store potable water, and perform water quality analysis testing and verification.

Pvt. Mack is the son of Alvin E. Pittman of Pahokee and Shirley A. Mack of West Palm Beach.

He is a 1997 graduate of Palm Beach Lakes High School, West Palm Beach.

Army Pvt. Jimmie L. Felton, Jr. has arrived at Fort Knox, Ky., to complete basic combat training.

During the eight weeks of training, the soldier will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Pvt. Felton is the son of Jimmie Felton and Barbara Gibbons of Belle Glade.

His grandmother, Louise Gibbons, resides at Everglades Terrace in Belle Glade.

The private is a 1998 graduate of Glades Central High School in Belle Glade.



The Belle Glade Lions Club inducts new members. New members recently inducted into the Belle Glade Lions Club, Alaska McElroy with Boys Scouts of America, and Donald Garrett with Belle Glade Produce Sales Company, Inc. are pictured with Lions Club president Joey Miller, center.

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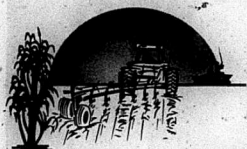
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Sports this week



Sophomore Antonio Hill, a wide receiver on the special team, raises his hand to celebrate the Raiders 28-17 final score.



Shirley Moore says "Two games to go."



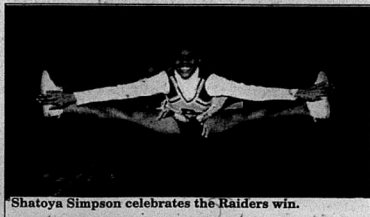
Future Raiders and Raider cheerleaders with their moms.



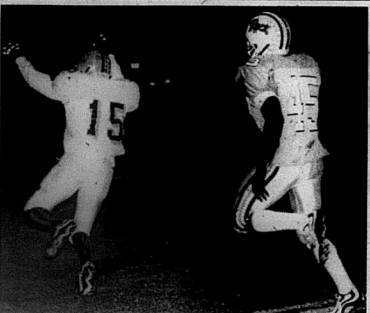
Johnnie Mullins, Keenan Ross and D'Juan Brown chill.

Pahokee Saints win Key West Bowl

The City of Pahokee Youth Football team dominated in their trip to the Florida Keys. The Pahokee Saints, coached by James Scott and Herbert Crawford defeated the Acreage football team 39-0 Saturday, Dec. 4 and followed that up with an even better showing by playing the winner of the Key West versus Wellington Game. The Pahokee Saints defeated the Wellington Raiders 25-0 to capture the Key West Bowl Championship, Sunday, Dec. 4. Congratulations go out to all the participants.



Shatoya Simpson celebrates the Raiders win.



A fantastic catch, over his head, by Steve Messam, led to a touchdown.



Jatavious McRae, who scored the touchdown, and Kelvin Hyman, who performed some super blocking for the touchdown take a break.



Mario Frazer and Steve Messam block for Reggie Vickers as he takes the ball in for a touchdown.



Members of the Glades Central Raiders Marching Band get down at halftime.



After the win

These Raiders are pointing north, celebrating their victory which is making them state championship bound. Gainesville, look out! Pictured are Steve Henry, Antonio Holmes, Curtinio Marshall, Robert Gibbons, Reggie Vickers, and Santonio Thomas.



Glades Central photos were taken by "Big A" Adrian Vereen. Any Raider fan who wishes copies of any of Big A's photos can contact him at 996-2340.



"Big A's" pick as offensive player of the week, #56 Santonio Thomas, better known as "Fats" sacks the Rockledge quarterback causing him to fumble.



The Twins, former Raider Marching Band members now attending Bethune Cookman College came home to support the Raiders.

PBCC offers convenience, growing selection

PBCC/From 7 for implementation next fall:

- Offering more counseling to students to help them plan their schedules in advance. Ms. Frank noted that the college recently employed a full time academic advisor to help students plan their curriculums.
- Offering a two-year schedule of courses, so that classes which are only offered occasionally, such as calculus, can be programmed in to a student's schedule from the beginning.
- Using internet and distance learning technology to make more classes available to PBCC students, both from the school's Central Campus at Lake Worth and its satellite in Boca Raton as well as other state universities, such as Florida Gulf Coast and Florida Atlantic University.
- Offering Saturday classes,

which might enable working students to complete up to eight courses in nine months by attending Saturday only sessions.

- Working with Palm Tran to improve transportation availability for students and exploring alternatives for child care, particularly for single parents who must attend classes at night.
- Preparing an events calendar each semester so that students can better plan their schedules to attend events of interest on campus.
- Allowing pre-registration to reduce the need for dropping and adding courses as a semester begins.
- Working more closely with financial aid and the college book store to insure that students have needed materials when classes begin.
- Recruiting graduates, like those who attended the pizza

party to act as ambassadors for the school, visiting area high schools to recruit potential students.

Of those at Monday's luncheon, most live in Belle Glade, South Bay or Pahokee, although students from Moore Haven, Clewiston and the surrounding area will participate in commencement activities next Friday.

The graduates cited the convenience of the campus location, and the relative low cost of attending a community college before going on to a university as the primary reason why they chose to attend PBCC.

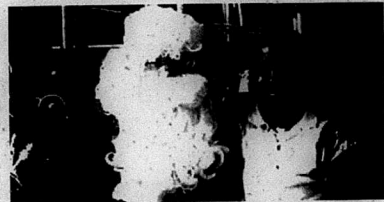
Emily M. Watson, a presidential scholarship recipient who attended Glades Day High School in Belle Glade, said she chose to attend PBCC for her first two years because it allowed her to continue to live at home with her parents while going to college.

Lt. Robert J. Grande, of the

South Bay Police Department noted that earning his associate's degree at PBCC complemented his busy work schedule.

Lt. Grande, who is earning an associate degree in business at the same time that he is working toward a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from FGCU, noted that with existing technology he can now pursue his degree without ever leaving his office, through FGCU's distance learning program.

Ms. Frank, who noted that the college has had some difficulty in the past accessing such programs due to software incompatibility, agreed that encouraging students to use telecourses and internet technology may be the key to recruiting and retaining students at PBCC as well as improving course offerings and scheduling.



Wildy Auguste, 9, tells Santa what he wants for Christmas. Santa came to the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce Saturday morning. Children received free pictures with Santa, courtesy of the Chamber.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER The City of South Bay Police Department seeks Code Enforcement Officer with the following requirements: Graduation from High School and the requisite regarding and comprehensive ability to understand City Codes and interpret their intent. Have the ability to prepare accurate and concise investigative reports. Have the ability to deal effectively with the public in adversary, as well as, congenial circumstances and to be able to make presentations at Public Hearings. Open until filled 12/9

CNA/MA needed at Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. in Clewiston. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. Competitive salary & excellent benefits. Apply at 315 South W.C. Owen Avenue, or fax resume to 941-983-9604 EOE/DFWP 12/23

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR The Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, a not-for-profit United Way agency serving the county's farmworker communities on the coast and in the Glades, seeks executive director for Lake Worth office. Responsibilities include: overall agency operation; administration of multiple programs; management of budget; advocacy/lobbying; or issues affecting farmworker population at local, state and national levels; of strategies for establishment of new programs; grantwriting/fundraising to fund existing and future programs; preparation of monthly and annual budget reports and newsletter; media and public relations, include speaking engagements and presentations to funders, churches or community groups; coordination with and knowledge of local social services network. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree, experience serving the social services needs of the farmworker community, and be bilingual Spanish/English. Fax or mail your resume/cover letter to 12/15 to: Personnel Committee, Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, 1010 Tenth Avenue North, Suite #1, Lake Worth, FL 33460 561-533-6099 12/9

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LPN/OUTREACH needed at Florida Community Health Centers, Inc. in Clewiston. Must have current State of FL LPN and drivers license. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. Exp. in Infectious Diseases a plus. Competitive salary & excellent benefits. Apply at 315 South W.C. Owen Avenue or fax resume to 941-983-9604 12/23

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MOLASSES TRANSPORT OPERATOR United States Sugar Corporation has an opening for a Molasses Transport Operator. Responsible for the delivery of molasses products to USDO customers in the southeastern United States. Operate in accordance with DOT regulations. Requires 2-3 year prior hauling experience and must possess a valid Class A CDL license with a good driving record. Must be able to communicate verbally and in writing in order to follow instruction from supervision and complete daily logs. Requires good interpersonal skills in interfacing with customers and must wear proper attire suitable for position. Responsible for general cleaning of truck and trailer, and scheduling of routine maintenance. Working hours generally 6:00am - 4:00pm

with occasional overnight travel and overtime as needed. May perform other related duties as needed. If qualified, please send/fax/e-mail resume to: UNITED STATES SUGAR CORPORATION, HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 1207, CLEWISTON, FLORIDA 33440 fax 863-902-2889. E-Mail: mnturans@ussugar.com EOE/AAP EMPLOYER 12/9

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PALM BEACH COUNTY: ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER I (Temp, Pahokee), \$12.43/hr., 8-5. Var. days incl. 1 wknd day. Will be req'd to complete a "Willingness to Work" Acknowl. w/appl. Selected candidate must take pre-exposure rabies treat. HS/eq. 1 yr exp working w/animals in a kennel, animal shelter or similar agency that would give knowl. of animal control laws. Must satisfactory complete. 40-hr State req'd Animal Control Officer Trng w/ 6 mos. of hire

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASST. \$8.21/hr. Various locations, w/1 Palm Beach County. May include centers in Pahokee, South Bay, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Lake Worth. Must obtain Dept. of Children & Families (HRS) 20-hour child care cert. w/ 90 days of employment & must apply for the Nat. Child Dev. Assoc. cred. w/1 yr. Red'g HS/eq. & 6 months of exp working directly with PRESCHOOLERS. Equivalencies: AS/AA in Early Child./Elem./Spec. Ed. Child Dev./closely related & 3 months exp; exp req waived w/related BS/BA, Prefer Nat. Cert. (attach copy to appl.) exp. working w/children w/special needs; exp developing & using lesson plans; 30 hrs child care trng; bilinguual (English/Spanish/Creole); former or present Head Start parent (primary care giver)/Head Start vol. exp. Appl./resumes must incl. SSA, pos. title, any Vet. Pref. Doc. & be rec'd by 5 pm 12/17/99. Palm Beach Co. Personnel, 50 S. Military Tr. #210, W. Palm Beach, FL 33415. Fax 561-233-4604; www.co.palm-beach.fl.us EOE/AA M/F/D/V/DFWP 12/9

POSTAL JOBS \$48,323.00 yr. No hiring-No experience-Paid Training-Great benefits Call for lists 7 days. 800-429-3660 ext J-800 FCAN 12/9

TEACHER POSITION available at the South Bay Center. The teachers are responsible for providing children with a safe and healthy learning environment; advancing their physical and intellectual growth; supporting social and emotional development; providing positive relationships with families and encouraging their involvement in the education of their children; ensuring a well-run purposeful program

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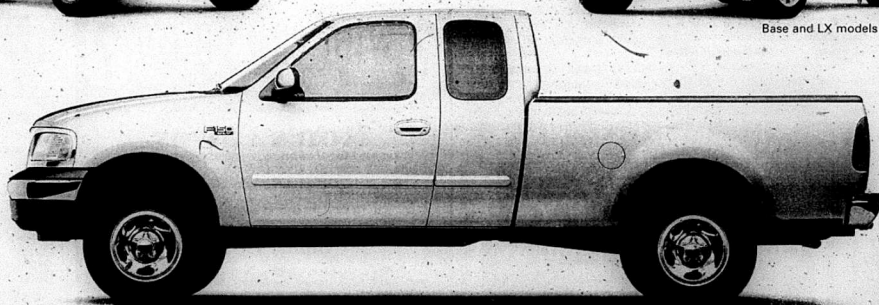
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